

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

Carmelo English, Plaintiff, -v- Mastour Galleries, Inc., George Mastour, and Joseph Mastour, Defendants.	Civil Action #: <u>Complaint</u> Jury Trial Demanded
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Plaintiff Carmelo English (“Plaintiff” or “English”), by Abdul Hassan Law Group, PLLC, his attorney, complaining of the Defendants Mastour Galleries, Inc., George Mastour, and Joseph Mastour (collectively “Defendants”), respectfully allege as follows:

NATURE OF THE ACTION

1. Plaintiff alleges that he was employed by Defendants, individually and/or jointly, and pursuant to the Fair Labor Standards Act ("FLSA"), 29 U.S.C. §§ 216 (b), that he is: (i) entitled to unpaid overtime wages from Defendants for working more than forty hours in a week and not being paid an overtime rate of at least 1.5 times his regular rate for such hours over forty in a week; and (ii) entitled to maximum liquidated damages and attorneys' fees pursuant to the Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. §§ 201 et seq. including 29 U.S.C. § 216(b).
2. Plaintiff was employed by Defendants, individually and/or jointly, and pursuant to the New York Labor Law, he is: (i) entitled to unpaid wages from Defendants for working more than forty hours in a week and not being paid an overtime rate of at least 1.5 times his regular rate; and (ii) entitled to liquidated damages and attorneys' fees, pursuant to the New York Minimum Wage Act ("NYMWA"), N.Y. Lab. Law §§ 650 et seq., and the regulations thereunder including 12 NYCRR § 142-2.2.
3. Plaintiff is also entitled to recover his unpaid wages and unlawful wage deductions, under Article 6 of the New York Labor Law including Section 191, 193, and compensation for not

receiving notices and statements required by NYLL 195, under Article 6 of the New York Labor Law and is also entitled to maximum liquidated damages, and attorneys' fees pursuant to Section 198 of the New York Labor Law.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

4. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1337 and supplemental jurisdiction over Plaintiff's state law claims pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367. In addition, the Court has jurisdiction over Plaintiff's claims under the Fair Labor Standards Act pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216 (b).
5. Venue is proper in the Southern District of New York pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b) and/or 29 USC § 216(b).
6. This Court is empowered to issue a declaratory judgment pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 2202, 2201.

THE PARTIES

7. Plaintiff Carmelo English ("Plaintiff" or "English") is an adult, over eighteen years old, who currently resides in Bronx County, New York.
8. Upon information and belief and all times relevant herein, Mastour Galleries, Inc. ("MG") was a New York for-profit corporation.
9. Upon information and belief and at all times relevant herein, Defendant MG was owned, controlled and operated by George Mastour ("George") and Joseph Mastour ("Joseph").
10. At all times relevant herein, Defendants individually and/or jointly controlled the employment of Plaintiff and was responsible for hiring, firing, scheduling, controlling, managing, supervising, and record- keeping as to plaintiff's employment, among other employment functions.
11. At all times relevant herein, Defendants shared places of business in New York County, New

York, at 217 East 59th Street, New York, NY 10022 where Plaintiff was employed by Defendants.

12. At all times relevant herein, Plaintiff was employed individually and/or jointly by Defendants.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

13. At all times relevant herein, Defendants were engaged in the business of the business of selling and installing carpets and rugs. See <http://www.mastourgalleries.com/>
14. Upon information and belief and at all times relevant herein, Defendants, individually and/or jointly one or more locations and employed over four employees at any given time.
15. At all times relevant herein, Plaintiff was employed by Defendants from in or around March/April 2012 to on in or around December 2016.
16. Upon information and belief, and at all times relevant herein, Plaintiff was individually and/or jointly employed by Defendants as a store clerk performing a variety of manual functions within this capacity.
17. At all times relevant herein, Defendants paid Plaintiff at a rate of \$10 an hour and Plaintiff was not paid any wages for his overtime hours (hours over 40 in a week) worked.
18. At all times relevant herein, Plaintiff worked 52.5-61 hours a week; 5-6 days a week for Defendants; but Defendants did not pay Plaintiff any wages including overtime wages for his overtime hours worked.
19. A more precise statement of the hours and wages may be made when Plaintiff obtains the wage, time and employment records Defendants were required to keep under the FLSA (29 USC 211 and 29 CFR 516) and NYLL (NYLL 195 and 12 NYCRR 142-2.6). *Accurate* copies of Plaintiff's wage and time records that Defendants were required to keep are incorporated herein by reference.

20. Upon information and belief, and at all times relevant herein and for the time Plaintiff was employed by Defendants, Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff an overtime rate of at least 1.5 times his regular rate of pay for each and all hours worked in excess of forty hours each week.
21. At all times relevant herein, neither Defendant provided Plaintiff with the notice(s) required by NYLL 195(1).
22. At all times relevant herein, neither Defendant provided Plaintiff with the statement(s) required by NYLL 195(3).
23. Upon information and belief, and at all times relevant herein, Defendants had revenues and/or transacted business in an amount exceeding \$500,000 annually.
24. At all times applicable herein, defendants conducted business with vendors and other businesses outside the State of New York.
25. At all times applicable herein and upon information and belief, Defendants conducted business in interstate and international commerce involving the purchase of carpet, rugs, and related products.
26. Defendants as a regular part of its business, makes payment of taxes and other monies to agencies and entities outside the State of New York.
27. Defendants as a regular part of its business, engaged in credit card transactions involving banks and other institutions outside the state of New York.
28. At all times applicable herein and upon information and belief, Defendants transacted business with insurance companies, banks and similar lending institutions outside the State of New York.

29. At all times applicable herein and upon information and belief, Defendants utilized the instrumentalities of interstate commerce such as the United States mail, internet electronic mail and telephone systems.
30. Upon information and belief, and at all relevant times herein, Defendants failed to display federal and state minimum wage/overtime posters.
31. Upon information and belief, and at all relevant times herein, Defendants failed to notify Plaintiff of his federal and state minimum wage and overtime rights and failed to inform Plaintiff that he could seek enforcement of such rights through the government enforcement agencies.
32. “Plaintiff” as used in this complaint refers to the named Plaintiff.
33. The “present” or the “present time” as used in this complaint refers to the date this complaint was signed.

AS AND FOR A FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT - 29 U.S.C 201 et Seq. (Unpaid Overtime wages)

34. Plaintiff alleges and incorporates by reference the allegations in paragraphs 1 through 33 above as if set forth fully and at length herein.
35. At all times relevant to this action, Plaintiff was employed by Defendants, individually and/or jointly, within the meaning of the FLSA – 29 USC 201 et Seq.
36. At all times relevant to this action, Plaintiff was engaged in commerce and/or in the production of goods for commerce and/or Defendants, individually and/or jointly, constituted an enterprise(s) engaged in commerce within the meaning of 29 U.S.C. § 207.
37. At all times relevant herein, Defendants, individually and/or jointly, transacted commerce and business in excess of \$500,000.00 annually or had revenues in excess of \$500,000.00

annually.

38. At all times relevant herein, Defendants, individually and/or jointly, failed and willfully failed to pay Plaintiff overtime compensation at rates of at least 1.5 times his regular rate of pay for each hour worked in excess of forty hours each week, in violation of 29 U.S.C. § 207.

Relief Demanded

39. Due to Defendants' FLSA violations, Plaintiff is entitled to recover from Defendants individually and/or jointly, his unpaid overtime wage compensation, maximum liquidated damages, attorney's fees, and costs of the action, pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b).

AS AND FOR A SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

NYLL 650 et Seq. and 12 NYCRR 142-2.2 etc. (Unpaid Overtime)

40. Plaintiff alleges and incorporates by reference the allegations in paragraphs 1 through 38 above as if set forth fully and at length herein.
41. At all times relevant to this action, Plaintiff was employed by Defendants, individually and/or jointly, within the meaning of the New York Labor Law, §§ 2 and 651 and the regulations and wage orders thereunder including 12 NYCRR § 142.
42. At all times relevant herein, Defendants, individually and/or jointly, failed and willfully failed to pay Plaintiff overtime compensation at rates not less than 1.5 times his regular rate of pay, for each hour worked in excess of forty hours in a work-week, in violation of the New York Minimum Wage Act and its implementing regulations and wage orders. N.Y. Lab. Law §§ 650 et seq., including 12 NYCRR § 142-2.2.

Relief Demanded

43. Due to Defendants' New York Labor Law violations, Plaintiff is entitled to recover from Defendants, his unpaid overtime compensation, prejudgment interest, maximum liquidated damages, reasonable attorneys' fees, and costs of the action, pursuant to N.Y. Labor L. §

663(1) and the regulations thereunder.

AS AND FOR A THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

NYLL § 190, 191, 193, 195 and 198 (Unpaid wages)

44. Plaintiff alleges and incorporates each and every allegation contained in paragraphs 1 through 43 above with the same force and effect as if fully set forth at length herein.
45. At all times relevant to this action, Plaintiff was employed by Defendants, individually and/or jointly, within the meaning of the New York Labor law, §§ 190 et seq., including §§ 191, 193, 195 and 198 and the applicable regulations thereunder.
46. Defendants, individually and/or jointly, violated and willfully violated NYLL §§ 190 et seq., including §§ 191, 193 and 198, by failing to pay Plaintiff all his unpaid non-overtime and overtime wages, as required by NYLL §§ 191, 193 and 198.
47. At all times relevant herein, Defendants, individually and/or jointly, failed and willfully failed to provide Plaintiff with the notice(s) required by NYLL 195(1) – Plaintiff is therefore entitled to and seeks to recover in this action the maximum recovery for this violation, plus attorneys’ fees and costs pursuant to NYLL 198 including NYLL 198(1-b), as well as an injunction directing Defendants to comply with NYLL 195(1).
48. At all times relevant herein, Defendants, individually and/or jointly, failed and willfully failed to provide Plaintiff with the statement(s) required by NYLL 195(3) – Plaintiff is therefore entitled to and seeks to recover in this action the maximum recovery for this violation, plus attorneys’ fees and costs pursuant to NYLL 198 including NYLL 198(1-d), as well as an injunction directing Defendants to comply with NYLL 195(1).

Relief Demanded

49. Due to Defendants’ New York Labor Law Article 6 violations including violation of sections 191, 193 and 198, Plaintiff is entitled to recover from Defendants, individually and/or jointly, his entire unpaid wages, including his unpaid overtime wages and non-overtime wages, maximum liquidated damages, prejudgment interest, maximum recovery for violations of

NYLL 195(1) and NYLL 195(3), reasonable attorneys' fees, and costs of the action, pursuant to N.Y. Labor Law § 190 et seq. including § 198.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully request that this Court grant the following relief:

50. Declare Defendants, individually and/or jointly, to be in violation of the Plaintiff's rights under the Fair Labor Standards Act, Article 6 of the New York Labor Law, the New York Minimum Wage Act, and the Regulations thereunder;
51. As to the **First Cause of Action**, award Plaintiff his unpaid overtime wages due under the FLSA, together with maximum liquidated damages, costs and attorney's fees pursuant to 29 USC § 216(b);
52. As to the **Second Cause of Action**, award Plaintiff his unpaid overtime wages due under the New York Minimum Wage Act and the Regulations thereunder including 12 NYCRR §§ 142-2.2, together with maximum liquidated damages, prejudgment interest, costs and attorney's fees pursuant to NYLL § 663;
53. As to the **Third Cause of Action**, award Plaintiff all outstanding wages, including his unpaid overtime and non-overtime wages, plus maximum liquidated damages, maximum recovery for violations of NYLL 195(1) and NYLL 195(3), reasonable attorneys' fees, and costs of the action, pursuant to N.Y. Labor Law § 190 et seq. including § 198, and issue an injunction directing Defendants to comply with NYLL 195(1) and NYLL 195(3).
54. Award Plaintiff prejudgment interest on all monies due;
55. Award Plaintiff and all those similarly situated, any relief requested or stated in the preceding paragraphs but which has not been requested in the WHEREFORE clause, in addition to the relief requested in the wherefore clause;
56. Award Plaintiff such other, further and different relief as the Court deems just and proper.

**Dated: Queens Village, New York
December 24, 2018**

Respectfully submitted,

Abdul Hassan Law Group, PLLC

/s/ Abdul Hassan

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